



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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## INVESTIGATION BY DCS YIELDS INDICTMENTS OF TWO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER EMPLOYEES

NASHVILLE – Internal affairs investigators at the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, working together with law-enforcement officers in Jefferson County, have secured the criminal prosecution of two former Mountain View Youth Development Center officers.

In separate grand jury indictments handed up yesterday in Jefferson County, James Clevenger, 26, and Thomas Rogalla, 42, were charged with felonies involving children. Rogalla resigned April 20 in the midst of the investigation. Clevenger was terminated Sept. 6 at the conclusion of the inquiry into the separate case against him. They have been taken into custody by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

Though both men worked at the same facility, the criminal cases are unrelated. Clevenger is charged with aggravated child abuse and aggravated assault following an investigation that showed he injured a Mountain View youth during a June 10 altercation.

Rogalla is charged with six counts of sexual exploitation of a minor after investigators learned in April that he was in possession of images believed to be child pornography. There is no evidence that the pictures involved children in DCS custody.

"DCS has absolutely no tolerance for these types of activities," said DCS Deputy Commissioner Steve Hornsby, who heads the department's Juvenile Justice division. "I want to assure the public that as soon as our investigators uncovered this evidence, we acted swiftly and decisively. And make no mistake: DCS is committed to the safe care and treatment of the youths in its custody.

"This behavior is deplorable. It is not indicative of the fine staff at Mountain View," Hornsby said.

Immediately after establishing the cases against the men, DCS investigators and Bud McCoig, chief detective at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, took their evidence to Fourth Judicial District Attorney General James B. Dunn. They presented their evidence to a grand jury that handed up indictments Thursday. Both men were then taken into custody.

Mountain View is a hardware-secure facility in Dandridge that treats male youths who have been adjudicated as delinquent by the courts. The facility houses 132 youths and employs 200. Mountain View offers a full educational curriculum, plus vocational training and counseling for the youths in its care.

DCS reminds the public that both men are to be presumed innocent of the criminal charges until convicted in a court of law. However, they have been banned from being employed again by DCS.

*(Note: This version has corrected name of **Mountain View Youth Development Center.**)*